

## Of The Five Elements

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Summary: A journey of a thousand miles starts with a single step.

Peace is almost impossible to achieve in the ninja world. However, it soon will change if everyone starts taking part in that journey. One step at a time. (Read to find out, no spoilers :D)

## Of The Five Elements

Disclaimer: Naruto is under the ownership of Kishimoto-sensei.

"How's it going, bros" - speech

\_"My name is ..." - thought\_

\*\*"Pewdie- \*cough\* never mind" - Justu\*\*

## Chapter 1

\* \* \*

><p>"Captain, we found something!" A ninja relayed his discovery to his squad leader. That was actually a secret way led to the underground floor, located at a small hillside. There was a large stone double door about seven feet high, and a big snake head statue right on top of it. It had a spooky and foul aura surrounding the area as if there were some kind of monstrous activities going on inside the mysterious place.<p>

A four-member squad of Konoha ANBU was carrying out their mission on the border of Earth country. The Third Hokage ordered them to investigate a suspecting location of an S-class criminal, Orochimaru of the legendary three ninja. Orochimaru had been secretly building several hideouts for his despicable experiments throughout the elemental nations. Adding onto the news of a rising Sound village, the old man was increasingly suspicious that his former student was

behind all these.

The captain turned his head towards his squad's direction. \_So much for wanting to hide his own presence- \_the captain mused at their target's choice of hiding place. With a wave of his hand as a signal to move, he and his remaining squad members leapt to the place. The group of four masked ninja immediately felt unease when they stood in front of the door. Their instincts were shouting at them to just run and get away from the place. Normally they were used to various kinds of weird situations and dangerous missions, but what this place was emitting was a different story.

The leader walked closer and investigated the double door for a while before ordering one of his subordinates to destroy it. "Cat, get rid of the door." He received a nod before letting her do the job.

With two slashes of a sword enhanced by chakra, the door split into pieces before falling to the ground. The leader signaled two more of his members to enter the secret way inside. However, the moment they took a step past the entrance, a series of kunai were suddenly hurling towards the two ANBU agents from both sides of the walls flanking the passage, forcing them to jump away to escape from the onslaught.

"It seems that this place is tightly trapped. There must be people inside there recently. Proceed with caution as we don't know what else are awaiting us, assuming they know we are here already." said the leader. He looked at the dark passage critically, thinking about how to go in safely. "Rat, send your clones in there and trigger as much traps as you can."

"Yes, sir." with a single hand seal, Rat created several shadow clones and sent them in there one by one, walking in a straight line. A few minutes later, after all those clones got destroyed by various kinds of traps, he flinched slightly as he scanned through all the information he got from his clones. They died a horrible death. "All clear, sir. There is a three-way intersection up ahead though."

The captain, wearing a dog mask, nodded. "Alright, we have to split up into pairs. I and Cat will take left and you two will go right. If you find any enemies, eliminate them. However, do not cause too much destruction because we are operating in our enemies' territory. We do not want them to find out that Konoha ANBUs are here. We have only a couple hours to search and leave at night. So, find everything in there and report later. Hopefully we can catch something linked to our target's whereabouts." He paused to let the order sink in. "This entrance will be our rendezvous point. Scatter!"

With that, the two pairs began their plan and went their separate ways. Along the passage, there were torches hanging on the flanking walls, one every twenty meters, dimming the way. This didn't make the journey in there any easier. They all had to be on an alert of possible dangers.

For the 'Rat' ANBU's pair, they took a right turn and proceed to walk cautiously. They saw several dull steel doors on both sides. A 'Boar' masked ANBU, the second in command, stated, "We should separate here and check inside each room thoroughly."

A good twenty minutes later, they couldn't find anything relevant to

their objective. After coming out of a room empty handed, Rat got a little frustrated at his result. "There are nothing in here. Are we even at the right place?" asked Rat.

"Be quiet and focus, Rat! Captain is a proficient sensor with his summon tracking dogs." Replied Boar. He shook his head at his teammate's complaint.

"I know. I know. I'm just saying." Rat grumbled to himself. They continued in silence afterwards.

Just then Rat accidentally pushed a stone block while he was leaning on the wall. This opened up an entrance to another part of the hideout.

\_Woah. That was unexpected. This is like one of those detective movies-\_ thought Rat. Nodding his head to Boar, he announced via his radio coms to his team. \*\*[This is Rat. I found a small entrance the right wing. It seems to lead to another part of this building. I'm going to go check it out. Over]\*\*

Dog received the message and replied, \*\*[Copy. Report if you find anything. Over.].\*\*

\*\*[Roger.]\*\*

Rat went in alone, letting Boar to search more the remaining rooms. Rat walked along the passageway which had torches hanging on the wall, just like those in the hallway. He had to make a few turns before having to stop at a stair which descended further down. \_This place is like a maze.\_- he mused. He saw a light at the end of the stair and another dull steel door.

\*\*[This is Rat. I think I'm going further down a level. There seems to be a room. I'm entering it now. Over.]\*\*

'Rat' twisted the door knob, but before he went in, he took a peep inside that place to avoid unwanted surprise. He froze at the sight before him. The T&I department, which in his mind was one of those creepy places where you would hear ear screeching screams of the prisoners and crackles from a certain interrogator, was nothing compare to this place. It was a whole other level of creepiness. He couldn't help but exclaimed, "Holy-"

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"SHIT!" yelled a young male voice. Akatsuchi was large and imposing for a 14 years old. He had dark eyes and black hair that spiked out at the back underneath his bandanna styled forehead protector. He had large cheeks and a plum nose what gave him an overall look of constant joviality. However, his current expression didn't seem like one who was usually laid back. The boy was now sweating profusely and looking frantically for something, or more like someone.

"\_Where is she?! Tsuchikage-sama is going to kill me if we don't arrive on time", \_he thought with burrowed brows.

"Kurotsuchi! Kurotsuchi! Where are you?!" He was supposed to meet with his teammate 30 minutes before the time for their special training with the Tsuchikage, which was at 10'clock in the afternoon.

Now his female teammate was nowhere to be seen.

Normally, she was the first one to arrive at their designated place and waited for him. This was one of those rare occasions when she was late, but it would just be 10 minutes behind their schedule. Now it was already a quarter past one, so the old man was definitely going to be pissed. Just by thinking of it made Akatsuchi gulped loudly.

He had gone to the places that Kurotsuchi liked to go for lunch or relaxed at, but he still couldn't find her. He decided to inform the Tsuchikage about her disappearance as she was his grand-daughter, so he had to know about this. This was going to be worse!

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Arriving at the training ground that had multiple rock formations littering the plain land, which was the result of various hardcore training using Earth release technique, Akatsuchi prepared himself for a rant from his tutor.

Floating in the air at the middle of the training ground was an old man with his green and yellow coat with a red collar occasionally blowing with the wind. For people who did not know this man, it would be a shocking phenomenon to see a man was defying gravity of the earth. For those who knew him, they could feel the commanding aura emitting from just his presence alone demanded respect and obedience of his subordinates. He was Ohnoki Kamizuru, widely known as Ohnoki of Both Scales or among his generation as Ohnoki the Fence-Sitter. Ohnoki was the current Third Tsuchikage of the Hidden in Stone village. ÅEnoki is a very short, old man with a triangular beard and a moustache that has angular corners, a big red nose and thick eyebrows. The top of his head is completely bald, although, he has long white hair on the lower-half of his head which is styled in a traditional 'chonmage' haircut, the back of which is tied with a yellow ribbon into a topknot.

His face now adorned a deep frown, in which because of the tardiness of his supposed students. He had wasted his time to try to improve the young generations, so that they could succeed him. That was why he didn't tolerate laziness. Plus, his back wasn't doing any good at the moment.

"What's the meaning of this, Akatsuchi? Why are you so late? And where is the brat?", asked the floating leader.

"My apologies, Tsuchikage-sama. But I couldn't find Kurotsuchi anywhere. He flinched at the glare of the man before him despite their massive difference of size.

"What do you mean you couldn't find her? Wasn't she with you during lunch break?" Ohnoki asked with narrowed eyes.

"No, sir. She told me she wanted to train some more and she brought her own bento, so I went to grab my lunch alone. When I came back, she was gone. I tried to look for her at her favorite places, but there was no trace of her."

"\_This is getting more and more suspicious the more I think about it.

There had been several cases of the disappearances of both civilians and ninja. Could it be?!"\_ Ohnoki thought with his eyes wide opened. "ANBU! Go and find my grand-daughter!" commanded the Tsuchikage.

Suddenly, four masked ninja, with the standard Iwa-nin uniforms added with their black animals masked, jumped out from underneath the ground and knelt before him. "At once, sir!" They left after that.

"You go and continue searching for her. Our session today is dismissed." Instructed Ohnoki.

"Hai, Tsuchikage-sama."

Ohnoki was left alone at the training ground and was contemplating about something. "Please let it not be what I suspected." He muttered to himself before retiring back to his office for the remaining day. He could do nothing now, but to wait for further information.

xxxxxxxxxx (Three hours later)

The third Earth-shadow was approving a file about a request for additional fund for the upgrade of the standard of ninja training at the academy. Iwagakure no Sato was at the final stage of revitalizing back their military prowess after their humiliating defeat at the hand of Konohagakure during the third ninja world war. A thousand ninja were decimated by a man with a single jutsu. This feat was almost impossible to achieve, but a certain blonde ninja of the Leaf proved otherwise. It obviously wounded the pride and power of the Hidden Stone village in the ninja world.

This was what war was all about. And Ohnoki knew it really well as he had gone through all the previous three wars. Death and destruction was guaranteed to happen. The ones who started it had to face whatever result was produced afterwards. Consequently, the cycle of pain and vengeance was created and never ended. It seemed that there was no chance for peace to erupt in this world.

Ohnoki was broken out of his stupor by the arrival of his ANBU agents. "Tsuchikage-sama, we could not locate Kurotsuchi-sama anywhere inside the village. Even with our sensors, her chakra trace was completely gone." Reported the ANBU. "We deduced that she must be-"

"Outside the village, either by choice or by force. It seemed that she's been kidnapped, like I suspected." Ohnoki grimaced at the fate of his grand-daughter. He believed in Kurotsuchi to protect herself though, at least until he could send help for her.

"Sir, what is your order?" the ANBU sounded determined to find their Stone princess.

"We can't let the public knows this. Take six squads and retrieve her. Don't come back without her." Ordered the old leader.

"Hai!" with that the ANBU left to gather his teams and started the mission.

Ohnoki of Both Scales was fuming on the inside. He had an idea of who the culprit is. \_"How dare that bastard!" \_He was too arrogant to think that the snake bastard wouldn't play with his village. Now he suffered the consequence of letting Orochimaru ran around Earth country. Ohnoki swore to condemn the bastard that dared to harm his grand-daughter.

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Unexpectedly, the room was a really big one with light bulbs hanging down from the ceiling, providing enough light to walk in safely. The first thing that caught his attention was that there were maybe fifty big collecting flasks on shelves on the wall. What were inside those flasks was a disgusting sight. Several body parts or organs, like eyes, arms, etc, were in those water-filled containers. He felt sick just by seeing it. \_â€"They always said he was damn creepy, but this is just too much\_\_-- he thought while continuing to check on anything that may lead to Orochimaru's whereabouts. Walking further inside, he saw a table with a white cloth covering it like those ones in surgery room. The cloth was blood stained and it seemed to be freshly used too. There was also a board with some hand-writing on it. Rat took a look at it.

It said, "Affiliation: Iwagakure. Rank: Chuunin. Age:16 Female. Specialty: Explosion release. Duration of captivity: 1 week."

"He's been kidnapping people all over the place. This must be another hideout for experiments." said to himself before deciding to survey the room more. To his right, there was a giant computer attached to the wall, filled with some kind of DNA related information on its screen. And to the opposite of it were all types of tools that surgeons would use for their operations. 'Rat' began to feel unnerved about this whole thing.

The hair on his neck rose up slowly as an aura of dark and evil came from a cell in the left end corner of the room. It was dark inside there. One of his hands reached for his sickle on his back, while the other hand tried to push the cell opened when he got in front of it.

A squeaking sound of the opening cell echoed around the area. 'Rat' took a step in as both his hands were fully equipped with his two razor sharp sickles. What he saw there shocked him to the core. Lying down on the floor was a young girl. She looked to be around his age and had short black hair. Her clothes were still intact, but she had ninja wires tied around both of her hands and her feet.

He knelt down in front of her. His eyes carefully studied her sleeping form, "What happened to her?" He shook her shoulders a little bit before she started to squirm in pain. "Hey. Wake up."

The girl groggily opened her eyes. All she could see at first was a blur of a white and red mask close to her face. She then was fully awaked and crawled away from the figure in front of her. "N-no! Stay away from me!" yelled the girl.

"Hey hey. It's ok. I'm not hurting you." said the ANBU as he sheathed his weapons back on his back and raised his hands up. He walked closer to her slowly, trying to show that he meant no harm. Now that he could see her whole features, she has short black hair and a pair

of rosy eyes. "\_What a strange eyes' color". \_Those were bruises on her right cheek, signaling there was retaliation done by her. \_"Oh, she's a ninja too."\_ She adorned the standard attire of the Iwa-nin consisting of a red uniform with her right sleeve missing and a lapel over her right leg, the brown Iwagakure flak jacket which was torn at the abdomen part, fishnet tights and a skirt over them. She also wore regular shinobi sandals.

"No! Don't get any closer!" She still didn't trust the person in front of her. What she had seen a hour ago of what a man did to a fellow prisoner scared the living hell out of her. She crawled back further away from him.

\_She's having a trauma. It must've been bad.- \_'Rat' thought of the situation. He just stopped at a good distance where she told him to, not wanting to push his luck. "What happened to you? I can help you." the masked ninja tried to comfort the girl after seeing how scared she was of him.

The girl lowered her guard a little bit as she could see he indeed wasn't going to hurt her. "That man killed her. H-he cut her s-stomach open. There was b-blood everywhere!" she stuttered while trying to explain. She was shaking tremendously though. The scene had been haunting her for days and nights.

'Rat' saw the girl was shuddering with fear. He felt sad to see someone this young witnessing whatever that happened here that must have been a very terrifying sight. He himself wouldn't want to experience whatever she'd seen either even if he was an ANBU. "I'm sorry. It's okay, I'm getting you out of here. You'll be safe." hugging the girl and rubbing her back to ease her pain.

She hugged back and clutched her source of comfort. Her shaking was somehow stopping after a few minute. Rat contemplated a bit before asking to confirm his thought. "You are a ninja, yes?"

"Yes. I was kidnapped by a man. His face was so pale, even paler than sick people. He did something to me which make me unable to mold my chakra. I don't know what it was, but he hit me in the stomach with all five of his fingers." Explained the girl.

"I see. Can you show it to me? Maybe I can fix it."

She stiffened and had pink hue on her cheeks. "S-show you?" she asked hesitantly.

"Yeah, I need to see what it is. I know it must be some kind of chakra restricting seal." Rat seemed a bit flustered also at the concept of asking the girl to show him her stomach blatantly.

She then lifted up her red shirt and looked away. Rat immediately checked out the problem, so that he could end her embarrassment. Rat quickly identified the seal that disturbed the chakra flow. It was the \*\*'\*\*\*\*Gogyo Fuiin' (The five elements seal)\*\*. Its ability was to block the flow of the target's chakra which prevented them to use or even control their own chakra properly. Once it was completed, the target would become unconscious and unable to fight for a short time. Apparently, Orochimaru used that opportunity to capture her with ease. In order to counter it, or more specifically cancel it, Rat needed to use the seal's counterpart called \*\*'Gogyo Kaiin' (The five

elements unseal)\*\* which basically reverse the effect of the original seal.

"Alright, what I'm about to do is going to hurt you a bit, so bear with me. After that, you will most likely fall unconscious from the sudden rush of the flow of your chakra." Rat explained.

"Um, that doesn't sound pretty at all."

"No, it doesn't. So do you trust me?"

"\_I don't really have any other option if I want to leave this place. He also seems confident about this.\_" Thought the girl. She nodded and prepared herself for the coming pain.

Rat ran through a set of hand seals necessary for his intended technique. Just then, on his right hand, his fingers began to glow blue fire-like hue with letters represented all five elements. With the technique ready to perform, he positioned his hand on her stomach and alerted the girl, "Alright, here goes! \*\*'Sealing arts: Five elements Unseal!'"\*\*".

She suddenly gasped for air from the strong pulse of power by the seal. All she could feel at the moment was pain, starting from her coil spreading throughout her chakra system in her body. A couple minutes later, the pain died down a peg, then a feeling of relief overcame the rush of her chakra flow. She felt like a ton of weight was lifted from her shoulders. Her lips curved upwards when she looked at the relaxed manner of her savior as his shoulders were slumped down. This could go south just by a small error from him.

"Rest for now. I will get you out of here", muttered softly at her, Rat picked the girl up bridal style while she began to succumb to her needed rest. She snuggled into his chest adorably, making smile at the scene. He found it incredibly cute. "\_Oh no! Bad Naruto. Bad Naruto.\_" He shook off the thought from his mind immediately. With a blush on his face behind his mask, he looked at her face one more time before making their way out of this despicable place.

"Sleep tight, Kurotsuchi."

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><p>Author's note: Hey, guys. During these past weeks, I've been reviewing my previous story and I feel like it followed all the events in the canon too closely. So I want to do something different and cool, like creating my own scenario for the story. I hope you enjoy this one. Feel free to share what you think of this. just don't randomly flame. It helps me to improve my English, as well as my story telling. Thanks. I'll see you guys next time.<p>

P.S.: I will not continue my previous story. Think of this new one as a remake.

End  
file.